



U.S. Department of Justice

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April 12, 2005

Event: INDICTMENT

Defendants: D-1 MONASSER MOSAD OMIAN, a.k.a. Nagi Mohamed Sharian
D-2 SADIK MONASSER OMIAN, a.k.a. Sadeq Munasser Omayan
D-3 NASSER G. M. WASSIL, a.k.a. Nasser Ghaleb Wassil
D-4 JARALLAH NASSER WASIL, a.k.a. Kaid Ahmed Almulaiki, a.k.a.
Jarallah Ghaleb

**MEN CHARGED WITH OPERATING AN UNLICENSED
MONEY REMITTING BUSINESS, MAKING FALSE STATEMENTS**

MONASSER OMIAN (55), **SADIK OMIAN** (33) and **JARALLAH WASSIL** (28) of Dearborn, Michigan, and **NASSER WASSIL** (52) of Yemen, were indicted on April 6, 2005; the indictment was unsealed today. The defendants are charged in four counts: in **Count 1**, all four defendants are charged with conspiring to operate an unlicensed money remitting business and to structure cash deposits to evade reporting requirements (18 U.S.C. § 371); in **Count 2**, all four defendants are charged with aiding and abetting each other in the operation of an unlicensed money remitting business (18 U.S.C. §§ 1960 and 2); in **Counts 3 and 4**, **MONASSER OMIAN** is charged alone with making false statements to federal agents (18

U.S.C. § 1001). **MONASSER OMIAN, SADIK OMIAN** and **JARALLAH WASSIL** were arrested, arraigned, and released on bond today. **NASSER WASSIL** is believed to be in Yemen.

According to the indictment, the defendants conspired to manage and own an unlicensed money transmitting business, which they referred to as the **Hawala**, and used it to send at least **\$6,105,442** they collected from mosques, businesses, and individuals in California, Colorado, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Washington State and Michigan. The money was sent to the Republic of Yemen and disbursed to unknown recipients. The conspirators structured their cash deposits into the Hawala in order to cause Comerica Bank and Charter One Bank to fail to file the cash transaction reports required by law and regulation for cash deposits over \$10,000, by keeping the cash deposits at \$10,000 or less on all but a few occasions. The defendants profited from their illegal activity, in part by charging a percentage of the money transferred as their commission on the illegal service they were providing.

In announcing the indictment, United States Attorney Stephen J. Murphy commended the work of the Special Agents of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, who conducted the investigation. Daniel D. Roberts, Special Agent in Charge, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Detroit, Michigan, stated, "The FBI will continue to aggressively pursue any illegal transfers of money to overseas bank accounts which are designed to evade currency reporting requirements. The FBI would like to take this opportunity to thank the banking institutions for their assistance in this complex financial investigation."

The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorneys Cynthia Oberg and Julie A. Beck. A copy of the indictment is available. An indictment is only a charge and is not evidence of guilt. The defendants are entitled to a fair trial in which it will be the government's burden to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.